CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for suturing a tissue membrane, the apparatus comprising:

a tubular body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion extendable through an opening in the tissue membrane caused by a catheterization procedure;

a needle advanceable in a distal direction along the tubular body and through the tissue membrane adjacent the opening in the tissue membrane the needle having an eyelet and a length of suture through the eyelet;

a hemostasis seal member on the distal portion of the tubular member, the seal member being openable against outflow of fluid through the opening in the tissue membrane; and

a suture chamber defined in the proximal portion of the tubular body, the suture chamber holding a length of suture, wherein the needle is adapted to carry at least a portion of the length of suture from the suture chamber through the tissue membrane.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a suture retrieval assembly at the distal portion of the tubular body and deployable to receive the suture after the tubular body is extended through the opening in the tissue membrane.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the suture is attached to the needle.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the eyelet carries a doubled-back length of suture.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the needle is a hollow needle that carries the suture through the center of the hollow needle.

42.-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for suturing tissue, comprising:

a tubular body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion extendable through an opening in the tissue;

a needle advanceable in a distal direction along the tubular body and through the tissue adjacent the opening in the tissue membrane, the needle having an eyelet and a length of suture through the eyelet; and

a hemostasis seal member associated with the distal portion of the tubular member, the seal being openable against outflow of fluid through the opening in the tissue membrane.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55 further comprising a needle magazine associated with the tubular body, the needle magazine configured to house a portion of the needle.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 56 further comprising a suture chamber defined in the proximal portion of the tubular body, the suture chamber holding a length of suture, wherein the needle is adapted to carry at lest a portion of the length of suture from the suture chamber through the tissue membrane.

58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57 further comprising a suture retrieval assembly at the distal portion of the tubular body and deployable to receive the suture after the tubular body is extended through the opening in the tissue.